

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068277 TOSEC 030036
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UNCLAS STATE 068277 TOSEC 030036

NO. 5 FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT WILLIAM BEECHER ARTICLE THE BOSTON GLOBE SUNDAY MARCH 27 HEADED "ALLIES OPPOSE LIMITS ON CRUISE MISSILES."

2. WASHINGTON -- GREAT BRITAIN AND WEST GERMANY HAVE PRIVATELY URGED THE UNITED STATES NOT TO AGREE TO CONSTRAINTS ON CRUISE MISSILES THAT COULD PREVENT NATO FROM MAKING FULL USE OF THE NEW WEAPON TECHNOLOGY.

-- - ,-- EAPON TECHNOLOGY.

3. WELL-PLACED SOURCES SAY DELEGATIONS FROM LONDON AND BONN VISITED WASHINGTON WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 068277 TOSEC 030036

ADVANCE OF HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS THAT START IN MOSCOW TOMORROW.

4. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE HEADS A DELEGATION WHICH WILL EXPLORE THE PROSPECTS OF A NEW SALT TREATY, ALONG WITH OTHER ISSUES, WITH SOVIET PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV.

5. IN CONFERENCES AT THE WHITE HOUSE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE PENTAGON, BRITISH AND GERMAN AUTHORITIES STRESSED THEIR BELIEF THAT NUCLEAR-ARMED CRUISE MISSILES HOLD GREAT PROMISE OF REDRESSING A GROWING IMBALANCE FAVORING SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES AND BOMBERS WHICH THREATEN WESTERN EUROPE.

6. THEY ALSO FORESEE POTENTIAL NON-NUCLEAR USES PARTICULARLY ADVANTAGEOUS IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER.

7. THEY THUS STRENUOUSLY URGED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION NOT TO AGREE TO ANY LIMITS WHICH MIGHT PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE CRUISE MISSILE OR THE TRANSFER OF EITHER THE WEAPON ITSELF OR ITS CRITICAL COMPONENTS TO NATO ALLIES.

8. THE INCIDENT UNDERSCORES THE MOUNTING COMPLEXITY OF TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A SALT-2 TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

9. THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN PRESIDENT FORD AND HENRY KISSINGER WORKED OUT A TENTATIVE SALT FORMULA WITH BREZHNEV AT VLADIVOSTOK, NEITHER SIDE REGARDED THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE (THEN IN ITS INFANCY) OR THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER AS SUFFICIENTLY MENACING TO BE COUNTED IN THE 2400-WEAPON CEILING ON LONG-RANGE MISSILES AND BOMBERS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 068277 TOSEC 030036

10. BUT BOTH SYSTEMS HAVE LOOMED INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND HAVE BECOME MAJOR SOURCES OF CONTENTION, BLOCKING PROGRESS ON A NEW TREATY.

11. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE CLEAR HE WOULD PREFER A NEW TREATY THAT SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THE NUCLEAR ARSENALS OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS. FAILING THAT, HE CALLS FOR A LIMITED AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES AGREED TO AT VLADIVOSTOK, DEFERRING SUCH THORNY ISSUES AS THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE BACKFIRE TO ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

12. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY THE VISITING BRITISH AND GERMAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE GROWING IMBALANCE OF THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE. NATO, THEY POINTED OUT, HAS NOTHING TO COUNTERBALANCE THE LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET SS20 MOBILE MISSILES AND BACKFIRE BOMBERS NOW BEING DEPLOYED AT INSTALLATIONS

IN SOUTHWESTERN RUSSIA.

13. THE BACKFIRE, WITH A RANGE OF ABOUT 4000 MILES, IS WELL OUTSIDE THE REACH OF NATO TACTICAL FIGHTER-BOMBERS, AND THE SS20, BECAUSE OF ITS 2500-MILE RANGE AND ITS MOBILITY, IS ALSO UNTARGETABLE BY ANYTHING IN THE NATO ARSENAL.

14. THE EUROPEANS VOICED FEARS THAT SUCH SOVIET CAPABILITIES, IF UNANSWERED, COULD UNDERMINE NATO'S DETERRENT.

15. HOWEVER, SOURCES SAY, THE BRITISH AND GERMAN OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT THE CRUISE MISSILE, UNLESS SEVERELY CONSTRAINED IN RANGE OR NUMBERS, COULD FILL THIS REGIONAL GAP AND RESTORE A STRONG DETERRENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 068277 TOSEC 030036

16. THEY THEREFORE ARGUED THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY ALERT, IN NEGOTIATING A STRATEGIC AGREEMENT, NOT TO ACCEPT LIMITATIONS THAT WOULD LEAVE NATO INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE TO SUCH SYSTEMS AS THE SS20 AND THE BACKFIRE.

17. THE BRITISH NOTED THAT UNLESS A RANGE OF AT LEAST 1500 MILES IS PERMITTED FOR NUCLEAR-ARMED CRUISE MISSILES, THEY COULD NOT REACH TARGETS IN THE SOVIET UNION FROM LAND-LAUNCHERS IN ENGLAND. INSTEAD, THEY MIGHT HAVE TO BE BASED NEAR THE EAST GERMAN BORDER, MAKING THEM VULNERABLE TO ATTACK.

18. SIMILARLY, IF NUMERICAL CONSTRAINTS AIMED AT LIMITING NUCLEAR-ARMED CRUISE MISSILES WERE AGREED TO, THIS MIGHT PREVENT GERMANY, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM DEPLOYING LARGE NUMBERS OF CRUISE MISSILES ARMED WITH NON-NUCLEAR WARHEADS, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NUCLEAR AND A CONVENTIONAL WARHEAD USING SPY SATELLITES.

19. BUT THE GERMANS ARE INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF EMPLOYING EXTREMELY ACCURATE, RELATIVELY CHEAP CRUISE MISSILES, WITH HIGH-EXPLOSIVE WARHEADS, TO BLANKET WARSAW PACT AIRFIELDS AT THE START OF ANY WAR.

20. IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR, THE RUSSIANS PROPOSED LANGUAGE THAT WOULD BAR THE UNITED STATES FROM PROVIDING ITS ALLIES WITH ANY TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON CONSTRAINED WEAPONS. IF THAT LANGUAGE WERE APPLIED TO THE CRUISE MISSILE, IT COULD PREVENT THE UNITED STATES

FROM FURNISHING DATA ON THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM WHICH IS
THE KEY TO CRUISE-MISSILE TECHNOLOGY.

21. BRITISH AND GERMAN OFFICIALS URGED THE UNITED
STATES NOT TO ACCEPT THAT KIND OF LIMITATION -- LEST IT
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PAGE 05 STATE 068277 TOSEC 030036

UNDER,INE THE ABILITY OF NATO TO DETER ATTACK OR FACE UP
TO THREATS BECAUSE OF A PERCEIVED SHIFT IN THE REGIONAL
BALANCE OF POWER. END TEXT
CHRISTOPHER

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